

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1534

By: Representatives D. Ferguson, Lundstrum

By: Senator K. Ingram

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO
ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD TO DEVELOP AN ACTION
PLAN TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION OF
UNPLANNED PREGNANCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Four thousand eighty-nine (4,089) births to teenage mothers were recorded in Arkansas in 2013;

(2) Of those births, three thousand thirty (3,030) were among young women between eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) years of age; and

(3) Community colleges and universities in Arkansas provide a critical venue to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among a significant number of older teens.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-60-105. Unplanned pregnancies action plan.



(a) On and after November 3, 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in collaboration with all public university and community college presidents and chancellors or their designees, shall develop an action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among older teens who are unmarried.

(b) The action plan shall:

(1) Incorporate unplanned pregnancy prevention information for students through advising and student orientation;

(2) Integrate information that is recognized as medically accurate by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists about the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into academic courses if and when appropriate, including without limitation abstinence education;

(3) Identify opportunities to raise awareness of and provide resources for the prevention of unplanned pregnancies across the entire student population;

(4) Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors or roles models, or both, of successful behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12);

(5) Identify private or federal grants available to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and to promote student success, including any partnerships necessary to successfully compete for grants;

(6) Collaborate with the Department of Health or federally qualified health centers, or both, to promote access to care;

(7) Identify child care, transportation, financial aid, and other challenges specific to existing single parents; and

(8) Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens.

(c)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall present the action plan to the Legislative Council upon its completion but no later than November 3, 2015.

(2) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall report on the status of the action plan annually to:

(A) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor;

(B) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
and Labor;

(C) The Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

(D) The Chair of the House Education Committee.

(d) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

APPROVED: 04/02/2015